

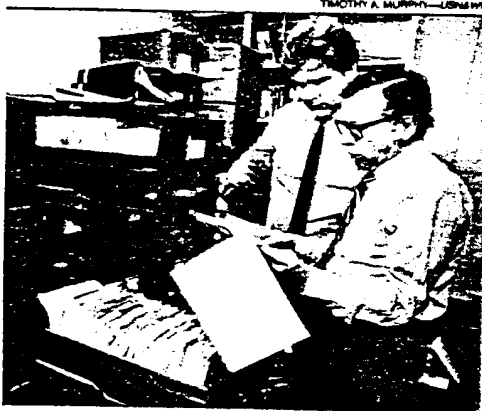
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## A Memo to Our Readers

In our special section, "Untold Story of the Road to War in Vietnam," you will find more new information about events surrounding the coup that toppled the Diem regime 20 years ago than any publication has ever printed before.

Our researchers spent three years delving into the upheaval that led to the assassination of President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu and marked a fateful step toward America's longest and most divisive war. Using hundreds of documents and scores of exclusive interviews, *U.S. News & World Report* reveals for the first time the full details of the Kennedy administration's involvement in the affair.

The exhaustive research into this project was supervised by Bill Rust,



Bill Rust, left, combs through the magazine's Vietnam files with Joe Fromm.

who pored over hundreds of documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act and who went through a CIA report on the coup that still hasn't been made public. Rust interviewed virtually all of the drama's major living participants, including McGeorge Bundy, who was then special assistant for national-security affairs; Secretary of State Dean Rusk; Gen. Maxwell Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs; Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge; CIA operative Lucien Conein,

and Maj. Gen. Tran Van Don, chief organizer of the coup.

Rust and retired Deputy Editor George Jones collaborated to write the finished article. Jones spent 30 years on the magazine's news staff and had firsthand experience in Indo-China.

Assistant Editor Joe Fromm, who oversaw this special section, says that what stands out most strikingly are how much confusion surrounded the making of crucial decisions by the Kennedy administration and how little top officials grasped the implications of their actions.

We think you will find this report not only interesting but also a breakthrough in understanding the forces that turned Vietnam's war into an American war.

*Joe Fromm*  
Publisher